

**Introduced by Senator Mitchell**  
**(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Hertzberg, Liu, and Wieckowski)**  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Campos and Thurmond)

February 19, 2016

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An act relating to homelessness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1380, as introduced, Mitchell. Homelessness: coordinating council.

Existing law establishes various programs, including, among others, the Emergency Housing and Assistance Program, to provide assistance to homeless persons.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to establish a coordinating council on homelessness.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) California leads the nation in the number of homeless
- 4 residents with 115,738 people experiencing homelessness at some
- 5 point, which is 21 percent of the nation's total. California also
- 6 leads the nation in the number and ratio of chronically homeless
- 7 residents with 29,178 chronically homeless residents at any point
- 8 in time, which is 31 percent of the nation's total.
- 9 (b) Homelessness is expensive to the state and local
- 10 governments. A homeless person receiving general assistance in

1 Los Angeles County, for example, incurs \$2,897 per month in  
2 crisis response services.

3 (c) Following the example of other states, as well as jurisdictions  
4 within California, it is the intent of the Legislature to adopt a  
5 housing first model for all state programs funding housing for  
6 people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

7 (d) Housing first is an evidence-based model of ending all types  
8 of homelessness and is the most effective approach to ending  
9 chronic homelessness. Housing first offers individuals and families  
10 experiencing homelessness access to permanent affordable or  
11 supportive housing with a low-threshold for entry, as it does not  
12 impose clinical prerequisites like completion of a course of  
13 treatment or evidence of sobriety. The federal government  
14 recognizes that housing first yields high-housing retention rates,  
15 low returns to homelessness, and significant reductions in crisis  
16 or institutional care.

17 (e) Homelessness affects multiple systems in California. Though  
18 almost every state with significant homeless populations has  
19 established a council to coordinate a housing first oriented response  
20 to homelessness, California does not have an entity to manage the  
21 state's response.

22 (f) California participated in a federally funded policy academy  
23 to reduce chronic homelessness. That policy academy succeeded  
24 in revising programs administered by the Department of Housing  
25 and Community Development, and in attracting federal funding  
26 opportunities requiring collaboration between the Department of  
27 Housing and Community Development and the State Department  
28 of Health Care Services. To implement additional successes, it is  
29 essential that California has a coordinating council on  
30 homelessness.

31 (g) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation  
32 to establish a coordinating council on homelessness.